

# Stream Team Annual Report

# 2023

promoting citizen  
awareness and involvement  
in river and stream conservation

## A Summary of Stream Team Activities

**P**rogram volunteers reported over 74,000 hours of volunteer time to our stream resources. We gained 184 new Stream Teams adding to our roster of over 5,300 active Teams statewide. Here are some highlights from 2023:

- ♦ **286 tons of trash were removed from Missouri's rivers and streams.**
- ♦ **498 water quality monitoring trips were completed.**
- ♦ **7,395 trees were planted.**
- ♦ **Over 18,000 volunteers participated.**
- ♦ **Over \$2.3 million worth of volunteer labor was dedicated.**

The Stash Your Trash Program targets trash on Missouri streams by providing litter bags to Missouri's float outfitters. There were 152 float outfitters throughout the state participating in the Stash Your Trash Program in 2023; 95 of them offered discounts to Stream Team volunteers in the *Stream Team Float Outfitters Discount Directory*. More than 358,000 red mesh bags were provided to livery business owners to distribute to the public, preventing countless tons of trash from entering Missouri's recreational waterways. An additional 33,300 red and green mesh bags and over 4,800 blue poly bags were provided to Stream Teams in their cleanup efforts.

## Stream Team Awards

The Stream Team Ambassador Awards recognize volunteer accomplishments in the Program's three primary goals of education, stewardship, and advocacy, as well as water quality monitoring. The 2023 recipients for activities conducted in 2022 were:

- ♦ **Stewardship: Stephen Silver**  
Stream Team 3929, 4707, & 5168
- ♦ **Education: Kelly Dunlap**  
Stream Team 463, 4096, & 5570
- ♦ **Benefactor: McPheeters Family**  
Stream Team 2380 (not pictured)
- ♦ **Advocacy: Elizabeth James**  
Stream Team 6186 (not pictured)
- ♦ **VWQM: Ahti Rovainen**  
Stream Team 2297, 3491, & 4707

Trained monitors submitted over 900 data sheets in 2023 that totaled over 5,200 hours and 1,600 participants. Our tiered Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring training structure allows flexibility for citizen involvement while increasing education and use of data collected at each level of training. With the hybrid learning format volunteers are able to learn at their own pace before attending an in-person field training on collection methods.

Water Quality Monitoring Workshops	Number of Field Trainings	Number of Volunteers Trained
Level 1	22	252
Level 2	10	45
Level 3	1	1
Total	33	298



ST6499 - Missouri State University's Wildlife Society Chapter go outside in the fall to monitor water quality at Jordan Creek.



ST6469 - To celebrate World Oceans Day, the SEALIFE Aquarium staff removed trash from the Blue River watershed.



ST1 - Mark Van Patten, along with staff from the Ozark Scenic Riverways, taught young students about water quality on the Current River.



ST4706 - The Klein Ford Otters collected trash along the Meramec River to celebrate President's Day.



ST5221 - The Lindbergh High School Creek Crawlers were finally able to get back out and monitor Gravois Creek after a 3-year hiatus!



Activity	Participants	Hours	Units	Value*
Litter Pickups	11,291	45,062	286 tons	\$1,404,116
Educational Projects	1,749	5,855	370 events	\$182,442
Water Quality Monitoring	1,613	5,284	498 trips	\$164,659
Other Miscellaneous Projects**	354	3,481	62 projects	\$108,468
Workshops (attended or conducted)	313	2,829	313 attendees	\$88,152
Meetings (held or attended)	1,066	2,486	1,442 attendees	\$77,448
Planted Trees	161	1,677	7,395 trees	\$52,240
Presentations to Other Groups	436	1,640	189 presentations	\$51,095
Association Activities	201	1,601	6 events	\$49,887
Habitat Improvement	394	1,400	50 projects	\$43,624
Display at Fairs, etc.	97	604	24 events	\$18,813
Planning Events	231	517	168 projects	\$16,119
Storm Drain Stenciling	274	357	571 drains	\$11,124
Agency Project Participation	267	258	138 events	\$8,052
Stream Bank Stabilization Project	36	142	1 project	\$5,048
Forestkeepers	18	158	6 trips	\$4,923
Advocacy	23	156	60 events	\$4,861
Invasive Species Monitoring	36	142	13 trips	\$4,409
Stream Access Maintenance	41	125	9 projects	\$3,895
Recruitment (new members)	29	69	68 people	\$2,150
Mentoring	10	42	36 people	\$1,293
Rain Garden or Green Infrastructure	13	42	4 projects	\$1,293
Riverwatch	11	36	4 projects	\$1,122
Media Contacts	31	35	19 interviews	\$1,091
Letters (written in support)	6	18	8 letters	\$561
Monofilament Recycling Project	4	13	0.1 ounces	\$390
Photopoint Monitoring	4	12	5 photos	\$374
Articles Written (newspaper, etc.)	7	10	6 articles	\$312
Award Received	1	7	1 award	\$226
Adopt-An-Access	3	3	2 agreements	\$93
<b>Totals</b>	<b>18,720</b>	<b>74,078</b>		<b>\$2,308,278</b>

\*\$31.16/hour is the 2023 Missouri wage rate for the estimated value of volunteer time (Independent Sector).

\*\*Includes projects like website development, newsletters, scout programs, fundraising, etc.

Questions? Please contact us at:

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[mostreamteam.org](http://mostreamteam.org)

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ST3205 - The City of Sedalia Stormwater led a litter pick-up along Brushy Creek.

## What's to come ...

Looking ahead, we expect to see many Stream Teamers return to their favorite streams and Stream Team activities like litter pick-up, water quality monitoring, and invasive plant removal. There is certainly no shortage of streams that need our help, so if you've stepped away for a while, we encourage you to get back out there! And, while you're at it, bring a friend or family member to join in on the fun!

We continue to see the world change, and the Stream Team Program is no stranger to this. Over the past several years we have gone nearly paperless, said goodbyes to long-tenured staff, welcomed new staff, and in the coming year, we will launch a new data entry application. Be on the lookout for a fun freebee when our new application launches!

Another change we are going through is long-tenured volunteers retiring from the program. Moving forward, we are focused on ensuring the continuation of the Stream Team mission by bringing new volunteers into the fold. We hope to see our long-tenured volunteers transfer their knowledge to our newcomers and help them find their footing as Stream Teamers. It's like that old saying, "Give a person a volunteer experience, and they will volunteer for a day; teach a person to lead volunteer experiences and they will volunteer for a lifetime".

## 2023 Fast Facts

During 2023, Stream Teams . . .

- ♣ collected **286** tons of trash.
- ♣ planted **7,395** trees.
- ♣ stenciled **571** storm drains.
- ♣ conducted **498** water monitoring trips.
- ♣ gave **189** presentations to other groups.
- ♣ completed **370** educational events.
- ♣ reported **74,078** total volunteer hours.

## 34-year Fast Facts

Since 1989, Stream Teams have . . .

- ♣ collected **14,069** tons of trash.
- ♣ planted **405,420** trees.
- ♣ stenciled **21,848** storm drains.
- ♣ conducted **34,960** water monitoring trips.
- ♣ given **3,761** presentations to other groups.
- ♣ completed **6,423** educational events.
- ♣ reported **3,430,376** total volunteer hours.